

Commissioner Minutes of September 22, 2009

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session September 22, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Whittington. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

Agenda – *there were no corrections or additions.*

The **Regular minutes of September 8, 2009 and the Committee of the Whole Minutes from September 1, 2009** were then considered. Commissioner Posey commented on page three under the copy machine discussion that the word “abuse” be changed to “track”. *Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the minutes with the revision. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** for the General Fund and the Judicial Management fund were then read. *General Fund - \$301,737.67 231 Fund - \$31,880.74.*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$102,371.16** was then considered for payment. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Public Comments –

Sandy Walling, Zoning Administrator, came before the Board with a “**Township Update**” *on those townships that are interested in participating in County Zoning.* Mrs. Walling passed out a chart of information for the Board’s review. The Board thanked Mrs. Walling for her time.

Mike Greer, District Court Magistrate, inquired of the **Board’s action at their last meeting to close the Parks and Recreation area.** Discussion. Rick Seebeck, Gladwin County Trail Association, discussed with the Board everything his association has done to maintain the trails including purchasing equipment and organizing fundraisers. The Gladwin County Trail Association would like to be able to enter into a maintenance agreement with the Board of Commissioners so that the park and trails can remain open for use by the public. Commissioner Reid commented that he is in favor of this proposal as long as it is cost-neutral to the County. Discussion. Commissioner Posey stated that she was one of the Commissioners that supported the closing of the park for revenue savings, but hopes to look at this proposal as a wonderful option to the residents of the County. Commissioner Carl commented that the Board should hold off on accepting any proposal until after Commissioner Reid makes his report.

Sarah Kile, Prevention Coordinator, 1016 Recovery Network, came before the Board to **request permission to use the County’s logo on a flyer to be circulated by her agency.** *Motion by Commissioner Smith to allow the use of the logo on 1016 Recovery Network materials.* Commissioner Carl asked if the Board needed to approve the contents of the flyer. Discussion. Commissioner Smith asked if the logo was

copyrighted, and if it isn't then Ms. Kile would not even have to ask. Discussion.
*Motion supported by Commissioner Posey. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

Justin Schneider, Building Official, asked that the Board consider a **fee increase to the plumbing and mechanical application fee, from \$50.00 to \$75.00.** Discussion.
*Commissioner Smith made the motion to accept Mr. Schneider's request for the fee increase, noting that the request is coming from the administrator and that the Board should honor his request. Motion supported by Commissioner Walters. Ayes carried, **motion passed.*** The fee increase will become effective October 1, 2009.

Resolutions for Consideration –

The Board then considered the **Resolution to Support Community College Baccalaureate Authority.** Commissioner Rhode commented that this would be a benefit to any small community college. Commissioner Smith noted that she thought this was an excellent idea. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Rhode, to pass a resolution in Support of Community College Baccalaureate Authority.* Roll Call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, **resolution 2009-28 declared adopted.**

The Board did not have any support on the Lapeer resolution for consideration. Commissioner Carl asked that it be included with receive and file items.

Correspondence from the Chairman-

Chairman Whittington read the **resignation letter of Bonnie House, Register of Deeds.** Ms. House thanked the Board for the cooperation and support in her years with the County and stated that she would be **retiring December 31, 2009.** Chairman Whittington thanked Bonnie for her years of service and stated she would be missed.

Aaron Miller, Prosecuting Attorney, came before the Board stating that he was in favor of the use of the County logo by the 1016 Recovery Network. Commissioner Carl stated that the logo is not copyrighted. Mr. Miller stated that there is a benefit to have the logo copyrighted and noted that he would look into the process for the Board and get back with them.

Chairman Correspondence Continued:

On a thank you letter received by Merit Network Inc. on the Board's support of their broad band grant.

On a letter received by Judge Evans, noting that all Board members should have received a copy.

On the open house invitation to the Board from Simply Charmed.

That the Personnel Policy has been updated. Commissioner Whittington asked that all the Board members review the policy so that it can be voted on at the next meeting. County Clerk, Laura Brandon-Maveal, asked if the Board had made any changes to the Good Friday holiday. Commissioner Carl asked that Mrs. Maveal put her requests in writing to the Commissioners so that they can also review that request before they approve the policy.

On the letter received by Magistrate Mike Greer on the District Court Revenues and Expenditures.

On the GASB 54 presentation offered to all the Board members. Commissioner Whittington recommends that all Board members attend, and to see that the register with the secretary.

Committee Reports-

Commissioner Walters reported:

- On attending the Sage Township meeting on the 9th.
- On the Sherman Township meeting on the 15th, noting that Sandra Walling was there with a presentation.
- On attending the Fair Board meeting on the evening of the 15th, commenting that they discussed their budget and carnival companies for next year.

Commissioner Walters then addressed Magistrate Greer on the Parks and Recreation area. Commissioner Walters commented that he and Commissioner Reid have spoken to Mr. Seebeck on his plan. Commissioner Walters further commented that he does sit on the Parks and Recreation committee and would like to see it re-opened, but there needs to be continued research, stating that the Trail Association and the Boy Scouts have done a lot of improvements to the park.

- On the Veterans Committee meeting, noting the deaths of the following Veterans: Joseph Kostick, Tobacco Township, Korean War and John Gillis, Clement Township, Korean War. The VA has also made a press release on a new Rx Telephone Scam, stating that all Vets should be careful in releasing credit card information for Prescriptions over the phone.
- That there will be a benefit spaghetti dinner for Rick Aldrich from 12:30 to 2:30 Sunday, October 11th. Commissioner Walters asked that everyone come out to support the family.

Commissioner Smith reported:

- On the Tobacco Township meeting that she was unable to attend, but sent a report for their consideration. Information discussed at the meeting was as follows:
 1. Tobacco Township will approve Uniform Addressing and will pay their portion after they receive a bill from the County.
 2. They approved garbage pickup with Republic, and renewed their contract.
 3. The new roof on the Township hall is complete and the Board is pleased with the work.
 4. Plans are made to finish paving VanDyke Road in 2010.

- On attended the Beaverton City Council meeting on September 21st, noting the following discussion:
 1. The water has been lowered and final DEQ and DNR inspections have been completed. The contracts will be signed this Thursday with repair work starting Friday, September 25th. Work must be completed by December 1, 2009.
 2. The Beaverton DPW wants to be included in the computer monitoring program utilized by Chappel Dam.
 3. The City Council revisited membership in the County EDC and voted to pay the dues for one more year with the following requests:
 - a.) Include the City Manager and/or Township Supervisors in all calls made to local businesses, whether for retention, expansion, or any business type meeting.
 - b.) Acknowledge the fact that although the EDC was a wonderful help with the grants and loans that many people pulled them together. For example, the Beaverton dam repairs in which Kerry Posey rewrote the grant three times, the fuel farm at the Airport was a co-operative grant writing project, and the USDA loan for the Beaverton dam. In the reports to the County Commissioners, please include this information. EDC did not and cannot do it alone.
 - c.) It appears to Beaverton City Council that the EDC is all about Gladwin City. We know that is not the case. Remember that Gladwin County also includes the Area south of Howard Road.
 - d.) There still seems to be hard feelings about how the Loose Plastics move came about. Yes, we are glad that the business remained in the county. However, Beaverton City was stuck with the grant payments for months which the business owner was supposed to pay. Let us just be very transparent as to what is occurring.
 - e.) a more equitable way of assessing the dues to the members. We do not feel that \$1,000 Beaverton is equal to the \$1,000 charged to Gladwin. Yes, we are both cities, but our SEV and tax base is much lower than Gladwin City, and many of the Townships. Is there a fairer way of dues assessment?
 - f.) The City Manager and Council members want to receive the monthly bullet updates sent out by Frank Starkweather.

In closing, Beaverton will pledge to support the Gladwin County EDC. Progress cannot occur without a concerted effort of all of us. We know that we must work together to continue commercial, educational, and recreational growth in the county. We all benefit from an active EDC that supports the entire county. It is time to put our divisions aside and work as a cohesive unit called Gladwin County.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On attending the Bourret Township meeting on the 8th.
- On the Clement Township meeting on the 9th.
- On attending the Butman Township meeting on the 10th.
- On the Gladwin Township meeting held on the 16th.
- On attending Personnel and Building and Grounds on the 17th.
- That many of the Townships have questions on County Zoning.

Commissioner Posey reported:

- On attending the Solid Waste meeting on the 10th.
- On sitting in on the Airport meeting on the 10th for Commissioner Reid.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- That he and Commissioner Whittington were to meet with members of the Clare County Board on the 11th, but their meeting ran late.
- That he would like to again state that the State of Michigan has done a terrible job on the grant processes.
- On attending the Building and Grounds meeting on the 17th, commenting that there was discussion on the cost of electric on the vending machines and if the Board should require a monthly fee from the vendor or have them removed. Commissioner Rhode commented that it is a benefit to the employees and that he doesn't want to see them removed. Discussion. Treasurer VanTiem stated that the County used to receive money from the two pop machines and no longer do.
- That the Building and Grounds committee is recommending that only the cracks in the parking lot be sealed this year and not the entire lot.
- On the Parks and Recreation proposal from Rick Seebeck. Discussion on committee members. Commissioner Carl asked that the committee look at ways to keep the grounds open cost neutral to the County. Commissioner Smith asked that Bev Przystas get a list of interested people together so that the Board can make appointments to the committee.
- That Flynn Lumber will be sponsoring the Gladwin County Fire Awareness Program on September 26th from 12-2 p.m.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On the EDC meeting held on the 9th, noting that the bylaws have been changed and will need to be adopted by the Board after EDC approval.
- On the budget review meeting with the Department Heads on the 10th.
- On attending the East Central Michigan Council of Local Government meeting on the 11th.
- On the Personnel meeting on the 14th.
- On attending the Health and Human Services Board on the 15th.
- On attending the Central Michigan Health Finance meeting in the morning of the 16th, and the Gladwin Township meeting in the evening.
- On the Finance meeting on the 18th.
- On attending the MAC meeting in Grayling on the 18th.

Commissioner Rhode then asked that line item **244-000-572.000 – MML Revenue be created to accommodate a Michigan Municipal League Grant for EDC.** *Motion by Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to establish the revenue line as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Finance Matters:

1. Gina Conrad, Gypsy Moth Coordinator, has requested to attend the **Annual gypsy Moth review in Minneapolis, Minnesota.** Total cost is \$1262.75. If approved, funds are available in her travel budget – 239-000-860.000. Commissioner Reid commented that he thinks it is too much money to spend, and is not a good example for what the Board is imposing on the other departments. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the training as presented.* Roll call vote as follows: Carl – no, Rhode – yes, Reid – no, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – no. 4 yes, 3 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

2. Bev Przystas, MSU, has made two requests. The first to allow the Treasurer to **create a fund 299 for “Youth Leadership” to keep funds separate of her regular Leadership program.** Ms. Przystas would like the same line items and format created in the 299 fund as what has been created for the 289 fund. Her second request is for **two days of lodging costs for both her and Kable Thurlow to attend the MSU Fall Conference in Lansing.** The registration fees for both of them have been paid by a scholarship. If approved costs can be paid for from their travel line 101-257-860.000. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to create fund 299 as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.** *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the lodging costs as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Reid voting no.
3. Cheryl Edgar, Clerk’s Office, has requested to be paid out for **5 unused vacation days per her Unit #7 contract.** Upon approval \$619.15 to be paid from her wage line 101-215-704.000. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to pay Mrs. Edgar out for the unused vacation days as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
4. The Finance committee would like the Board to consider an **additional request for appropriations for the Law Library (Fund 269)** per Darrell Schlese. Mr. Schlese feels that the fund will need an additional \$4750.00 to finish the balance of the year. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to appropriate the additional funds as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Whittington voting no. Laura Brandon-Maveal asked if the Board was going to direct the Treasurer where to transfer the additional funds from? Mrs. Maveal asked for a short recess to create a budget amendment to accommodate the expense.

*Chairman Whittington then called for a short recess at 10:25 a.m.
Meeting called back to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chairman Whittington.*

Laura Brandon-Maveal asked that the following budget amendment be handled to accommodate the additional appropriation for the Law Library.

101-000-624.002		\$2750.00
101-000-630.000		\$2000.00
101-891-969.000	\$4750.00	
101-891-969.000		\$4750.00
101-965-998.269	\$4750.00	

Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the budget amendment as presented. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

5. The following line items/appropriations need to be corrected in the 2009 budget.

Increase	101-965-998.231 to	\$260,659.00
Decrease	101-965-998-292 to	\$194,706.00
Decrease	292-000-699.101 to	\$194,706.00
Decrease	292-000-810.000 to	\$306,206.00

These corrections will balance the appropriation lines / due to / due from lines within the 101, 231, and 292 budgets. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to correct the appropriations as outlined.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Bonnie House, Register of Deeds, then asked that the Board consider the request she made to the Personnel committee to have permission to post her **Chief Deputy position to prepare her office for her retirement.** Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Carl,*

*supported by Commissioner Smith, to approve the hiring of a Chief Deputy Register. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

Public Comments –

Mike Brubaker, 911 Director, briefed the Board on the 211 kick off he and Sheriff Shea attended on the 10th at Dow Diamond. Mr. Brubaker read a list of public assistance items for the residents, noting the 211 system will act as a support relief system to 911.

Sherry Augustine, Drain Commissioner, gave the Board an update on Chappel Dam. Discussion.

Commissioner Reid then noted to the Board his feelings on why he voted the way he did on the travel and training request that were before the Board today, noting that employees need to make available to them more online seminars if possible and sharing information via other counties.

*Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to receive and file various correspondence and reports. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

*Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. until October 13th at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered.*

Laura Brandon-Maveal
County Clerk

Terry Whittington
Chairman

Budget Workshop

Commissioner Rhode opened the budget workshop with a list of reductions by department and revisions made to the budget since last meeting with the Board.

Discussion.

Mike Greer commented that there was not appropriation to the 231 fund included in the budget. Commissioner Rhode stated that the budget committee needed to sit down with the Courts and that no decisions on that budget have been made.

Denise Hall questioned if the revenue from the townships was taken out of the budget for the non-mandated services that her department would be sending back to the townships for them to handle due to the cut in her office. Commissioner Rhode commented that the revenue had not been adjusted.

Commissioner Walters clarified that the part-time janitorial position was upon retirement of the employee that was there. Commissioner Rhode confirmed that the replacement to the position would be filled with a 25 hour per week position.

Aaron Miller came before the Board with information shared with him in meetings held between the Clerk, Treasurer, Judges, Sheriff and himself in regards to the condition of the budget. Mr. Miller stated that the Board is looking at the budget based on General fund revenues and not looking at other funding areas, commenting that the 516 Unallocated fund has been consistent over the past few years, and that the health costs for 2010 are not released but being forecasted at 23% at which the budget contains a 12% "buffer" toward those increases. Discussion. Commissioner Whittington stated that he has now heard two separate things and that figures given to him are not the figures that has been given to this group. Commissioner Whittington further commented that if the County is as well off as what Mr. Miller is stating that the Budget committee needs to start their budget process over. Discussion. Commissioner Rhode commented that the budget should be in good shape at the end of the year, however each year the County has to begin borrowing earlier and earlier and that the budget needs to begin to carry over funds into 2010. Mr. Miller then commented that he thought the Board has done a good job in their efforts in putting together a budget, but to slow down and look at all the options, noting that the budget doesn't need to be passed until 12-31-2009.

Commissioner Posey commented that she is confused on the budget figures, wondering how the committee has come to a balanced budget.

Commissioner Smith stated that this budget process has been very interesting, noting that there are many things that need to be considered. Commissioner Smith also stated that she believes it is a benefit to the Board to start the budget process early, noting the more input and help by everyone enhances the budget outcome. Discussion.

Denise Hall, Equalization, commented that this budget is not the result of taking the opinions of the department heads, noting that she has given the committee an option that they have not taken. Ms. Hall stated that there is non-mandated work in her office that will not be able to be completed with an employee working 25 hours/week.

Commissioner Whittington stated that the committee hears all the department heads say the same thing, "If you cut my staff I will not be able to do the work", commenting that many other counties are making cuts and doing what needs to be done to balance their budget, and that Gladwin County can't seem to get their side done. Commissioner Posey stated that she does not see that any more work needs to go back to the townships.

Commissioner Walters stated that he has always been led to believe in the past that there was no money, and he is now being told the same thing. Commissioner Walters believes that the trust is gone and that it contributes to the problem. Commissioner Rhode stated that he would like to see the figures that the group reviewed. Commissioner Posey also stated she would like to see a report. Mr. Miller commented that he would get those figures to the Board.

The Board concluded the workshop at 11:20 a.m.